



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-9966



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2020

Contact: Bill Meyer
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm and dry weather persisted last week, allowing good harvest progress of spring crops and hay, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. In northeastern counties, corn silage harvest picked up quickly due to dry weather and producers were preparing for grain harvest. County reports noted non-irrigated spring crop yields were below expectations. Producers were also actively seeding winter wheat. Livestock producers continued to provide supplemental feed and pull cattle off native grass as pasture conditions remained poor. In east central counties, dry weather prevailed and harvest of several spring crops progressed. More producers began limited harvest of corn for grain. Prior cold temperatures in areas were enough to freeze crops and stop further growing season progress. Conditions in southwestern counties remained very dry and stricken by drought. Harvest of crops including dry beans progressed from the prior week. In the San Luis Valley, weather was ideal for potato harvest and producers made very good progress. The third cutting of alfalfa progressed, but was still delayed slightly by prior snowy weather. In southeastern counties, dry conditions allowed corn silage and alfalfa harvest to progress quickly. County reports noted corn for grain was quickly drying down. Statewide, stored feed supplies were rated 7 percent very short, 33 percent short, 57 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 68 percent average and 32 percent light. Cattle death loss was 83 percent average and 17 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	76	68	79	83
4 th cutting harvested	22	13	28	25
Corn				
Dented	93	87	72	85
Mature	42	27	18	29
Harvested for grain	5	1	3	2
Harvested for silage	68	43	44	62
Dry edible beans				
Cut	56	33	38	51
Harvested	12	5	15	25
Onions				
Harvested	53	25	35	56
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	30	11	33	24
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	67	53	53	59
Proso Millet				
Harvested	66	50	52	NA
Sorghum				
Turning color	87	75	79	86
Mature	47	35	24	24
Harvested	15	3	--	--
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	21	8	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted	45	30	37	38
Emerged	13	8	15	14

NA – not available
(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.9	4.9	6.7	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	25	34	6	7
Short	43	38	30	31
Adequate	31	27	63	61
Surplus.....	1	1	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	32	38	4	7
Short	43	39	30	29
Adequate	25	23	64	63
Surplus.....	--	--	2	1

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	7	7	4	3
Poor.....	17	10	5	9
Fair.....	22	25	9	21
Good	49	53	71	57
Excellent	5	5	11	10
Corn				
Very poor	16	17	--	1
Poor.....	19	16	3	6
Fair.....	26	27	19	22
Good	34	35	65	58
Excellent	5	5	13	13
Dry edible beans				
Very poor	1	3	1	4
Poor.....	27	22	7	7
Fair.....	36	41	32	27
Good	35	33	50	56
Excellent	1	1	10	6
Onions				
Very poor	3	3	--	NA
Poor.....	6	6	--	NA
Fair.....	24	24	8	NA
Good	62	62	89	NA
Excellent	5	5	3	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	21	23	4	7
Poor.....	30	34	7	13
Fair.....	32	32	25	25
Good	17	11	57	47
Excellent	--	--	7	8
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	3	6	--	--
Poor.....	7	13	3	5
Fair.....	18	19	33	20
Good	53	46	44	53
Excellent	19	16	20	22
Sorghum				
Very poor	11	18	1	1
Poor.....	21	21	2	6
Fair.....	48	42	25	26
Good	17	17	62	60
Excellent	3	2	10	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	3	3	--	1
Poor.....	8	8	1	2
Fair.....	27	25	12	13
Good	53	54	75	68
Excellent	9	10	12	16
Sunflowers				
Very poor	11	9	--	--
Poor.....	25	34	--	4
Fair.....	39	41	22	25
Good	23	15	67	61
Excellent	2	1	11	10
Livestock				
Very poor	2	2	--	--
Poor.....	6	6	3	1
Fair.....	32	32	7	12
Good	50	51	77	76
Excellent	10	9	13	11

NA – not available

(--) – zero